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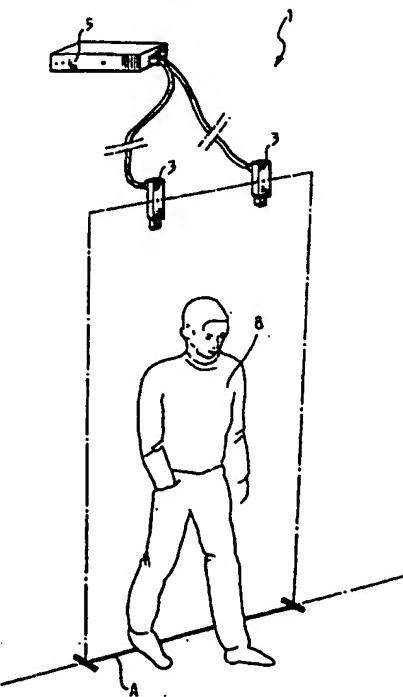
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(54) A method and device for automatically detecting and counting bodies passing through a gap

(57) A method for automatically detecting and counting bodies passing through a gap (A) includes the steps of monitoring the gap (A) with means for generating image signals (3; 9) to obtain a succession of images (4a, 4b; L₀, L₁, ..., L_N) of each body (B) passing through the gap (A), of processing these images (4a, 4b; L₀, L₁, ..., L_N) to obtain an altimetric map for each body (B) passing through the gap (A) for each moment considered, of comparing at least one altimetric map obtained with at least one model of altimetric map stored in a processing unit (5), and of activating a counting procedure depending on the result of the comparison.

FIG. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
Place of search THE HAGUE Date of completion of the search 8 October 1999 Examiner Miltgen, E		
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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